

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-09 IO-12

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-07 TRSE-00 USIA-12

NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-14 L-03 HEW-08 DODE-00 AID-20

RSR-01 /151 W

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R 240638 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3236

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2191

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR HK UK XC

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER ROLPH' S SEASIA VISIT

REF: ( A ) HONG KONG 2833

( B ) AIRGRAM A-2219

1. APPRECIATE COMMENTS REFTEL A MADE BY HONG KONG NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER ROLPH TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG. WE AGREE BILATERAL U. S. - UNITED KINGDOM GROUP TO STUDY SOUTHEAST NARCOTIC SITUATION IN DEPTH DETERMINE PRECISE MUTUAL GOALS AND TAKE HARD COLD PROFESSIONAL LOOK AT WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MEET THESE GOALS MIGHT BE USEFUL AND OF BENEFIT.

2. PRE- EMPTIVE BUYING MIGHT WELL HAVE AN IMMEDIATE SHORT TERM BENEFIT, BUT WOULD HAVE TO BE COUPLED WITH SUPERVISORY MACHINERY TO REDUCE OPIUM PRODUCTION PROGRESSIVELY WITHIN A PLANNED SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. PRE- EMPTIVE BUYING WITHOUT SUCH SAFEGUARDS MIGHT WELL ENCOURAGED INCREASED PRODUCTION AND OVER PERIOD OF TIME BECOME VERY COSTLY AND COUNTER- PRODUCTIVE.

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3. WE ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS YET HAS DONE ALL IT COULD TO SURVEY ITS HARBORS AND DISCOVER AND CLOSE DOWN 24 OR MORE LABORATORIES THAT PRODUCE FAR EAST'S LARGEST SUPPLY OF HEROIN AND PROPOSE BILATERAL UK- US COMMISSION COULD WELL MAKE THIS PROBLEM THEIR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS.

4. INEVITABLY THERE WILL BE COSTS INVOLVED AND THE USG SHOULD BE MOST CAREFUL THAT SUCH COSTS ARE SHARED EQUALLY. REF ( B) INFORMS US OF 27 COUNTRIES PLEDGING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL, HOWEVER, US PERCENTAGE IS 68 PERCENT, COMMON MARKET 13.6 PERCENT, THE NEAR EAST .36 PERCENT, THE FAR EAST 2.6 PERCENT, NON- COMMON MARKET EUROPE 1.5 PERCENT AND PRIVATE SOURCES 0.36 PERCENT. THE UK CONTRIBUTION TO THIS FUND OF \$120,556 AMOUNTS TO 2 PERCENT ALTHOUGH ITS COLONY OF HONG KONG HAS ONE OF LARGEST ADDICT POPULATIONS PER CAPITA AND IS ONE OF LARGEST PRODUCERS OF HEROIN IN FAR EAST. IT APPEARS TO US THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT IF MR. ROLPH'S EXCELLENT IDEA OF JOINT US- UK BILATERAL COMMISSION IS ACCEPTED AND SUCH A COMMISSION IS CREATED THAT UK IN GENERAL AND HONG KONG IN PARTICULAR SHOULD BECOME EQUAL CONTRIBUTORS TO WHATEVER FUNDS ARE NECESSARY TO CREATE SUCH A COMMISSION AND TO COSTS OF WHATEVER PROGRAMS THIS COMMISSION MIGHT PROPOSE.  
GODLEY

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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